IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 2, line 29 and ending on page 3, line 9 of the specification as follows:

On the other hand, it is not possible for the operator to arrange a spare spool of composite yarn and join the head or initial free end of the yarn on the spare spool to the tail of the yarn on the spool being processed, which would [[means]] mean that the spool change would be prepared well before it ends and the entire spool would be used up. This operation is impossible because in known machines the spools of elastic yarn are not unwound by keeping them stationary, but are turned on their axis to unwind the yarn. Consequently, it is impossible for the operator to grasp the end or tail of the spool being processed and join it to the beginning of the yarn on the spare spool. This problem does not occur with the replacement of covering yarn cops because the cops are unwound without turning them on their axes. Consequently, the head-tail of the yarns wound on cops intended to be unwound in sequence can be joined to ensure continuous covering yarn feeding. Furthermore, the cops of covering yarn contain a large amount of yarn and the joining operations can be carried out after a considerable amount of time.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 3, line 10 and ending on page 3, line 29 of the specification as follows:

Covering yarn texturing devices may be arranged between the yarn feeding cop and the interlacing jet ~~are provided in some plants~~ (see US-A-6,393,817 and US-A-5,008,992 in particular). The texturing devices comprise an oven crossed by covering yarn. This means that the yarn must be fed continuously. Indeed, stopping also only temporarily the yarn in the oven would cause destruction or unacceptable damage thereof. The covering yarn must be cut upstream of the texturing section, i.e. upstream of the oven, when the head is stopped, also only for a short time, for the operator to replace the completed elastic yarn spool. The operator re-threads the covering yarn along the entire path from the cop to the interlacing jet when the composite yarn forming head can start again after completing the operations needed to replace the spool and insert the free end of the elastic yarn in the interlacing jet. This entails a long downtime and loss of production. The problem can only be avoided if the operator is capable of intervening promptly to replace the spool of elastic yarn before the machine automatically cuts the covering yarn. Since a single operator is in charge of monitoring a high number of heads which cannot be synchronized, performing this operation in a sufficiently timely way on all heads in the system is never possible. Employment of a higher number of operators on the other hand would cause an unacceptable increase in the cost of labor.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 21 and ending on page 5, line 26 of the specification as follows:

In principle, the second elastic yarn can be joined to the covering yarn which is fed

continuously without interruptions also upstream of the interlacing jet with [[a]] an interweaving or joining system, e.g. with an auxiliary interlacing jet or other pneumatic system which is operated only during the spool changing phase and is arranged upstream of the interlacing jet which forms the composite or interlaced yarn.